

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-07
LAB-04 SIL-01 MCT-01 /067 W

-----061428Z 047652 /53

O R 061305Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1672

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 161

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: GENERAL STRIKE: FOURTH AND PERHAPS LAST DAY

REF: BELFAST 160

1. PROVINCE GENERALLY QUIET AND BUSY TODAY. FACTORIES IN MOST AREAS HAVE 70-90 PER CENT WORK-FORCE ON JOBS. TRAFFIC MOVING FREELY ALTHOUGH RAILROAD BETWEEN BELFAST AND LISBURN CLOSED BECAUSE OF SUSPECT DEVICE. PORT OF LARNE STILL CLOSED. THERE IS STILL NO RPT NO INDICATION OF WHAT IF ANY ACTION ELECTRICITY WORKERS WILL TAKE. SIZEABLE DELEGATION REPRESENTING WORKERS ALL UNIONS BALLYLUMFORD STATION MET WITH SECRETARY OF STATE ROY MASON LAST NIGHT TO EXPRESS COMPLAINTS ABOUT SECURITY SITUATION. MR. MASON REPORTEDLY TOLD THEM HE INTENDED TO INCREASE SIZE OF ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) INCREASE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME MEMBERS ULSTER DEFENSE REGIMENT, ESTABLISH TEN MOBILE RUC SPECIAL PATROL GROUPS AND WIDEN ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL AIR SERVICE UNITS. ONE GROUP OF DELEGATES REPORTED DIRECTLY AFTER MEETING TO UNIONIST ACTION COUNCIL, (UAC) HEADQUARTERS. THESE

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CONCESSIONS COULD BE ENOUGH TO SAVE FACES UAC LEADERS AND ENABLE THEM TO END STRIKE. MASS PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PROTEST WAS NOT RPT NOT THERE AT BEGINNING AND HAS NOT RPT NOT DEVELOPED. WHILE THERE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC SYMPATHY FOR STRIKE (AND ALMOST UNIVERSAL PROTESTANT DISLIKE OF SECURITY POLICE WHICH THEY BELIEVE TOLERATES TERRORISM) MASS OF PUBLIC SUPPORT WAS OUTSIDE BELFAST. IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT STRIKE SERIOUSLY AFFECT

INDUSTRY AND DAILY LIFE IN BELFAST AND WORKERS AND GENERAL POPULACE DID NOT LET THAT HAPPEN. FEW HERE ARE WILLING TO ARTICULATE IT BUT UNLESS THERE SHOULD BE SOME DRAMATIC MOVE, THE STRIKE SEEM TO BE EFFECTIVELY OVER.

2. FIRST SERIOUS IF BRIEF CLASHES BETWEEN POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS OCCURRED YESTERDAY, MOSTLY IN BELFAST. DEMONSTRATORS FROM PROTESTANT SANDY ROW AREA BLOCKED MAIN ARTERY BETWEEN DOWNTOWN AND UNIVERSITY AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS. WOMEN WERE PLACED IN FRONT LINE OF HUMAN BARRICADE AND AS POLICE MOVED IN THERE WERE INJURIES TO ONE WOMAN AND SEVERAL POLICEMEN. UP TO NOW 16 POLICEMEN HAVE BEEN INJURED AND DURING THE PROTESTS 56 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED ON CHARGES RELATING TO ILLEGAL ACTIONS. THERE HAVE BEEN 1350 COMPLAINTS OF INTIMIDATION AND POLICE HAVE CLEARED 45 ROAD-BLOCKS. DESPITE ABSENCE OF MASS PUBLIC SUPPORT, FEELINGS ARE CONTINUING TO RUN HIGH, ESPECIALLY IN WORKING CLASS AREAS BELFAST AND AMONG PROTESTANTS IN SMALL TOWNS AND VILLAGES AND ON FARMS. AT HEARING IN ARMAGH MAY 5 AT WHICH FIVE ULSTER SERVICE CORPS (USC) MEMBERS FINED TWENTY POUNDS STERLING EACH FOR OPERATING ILLEGAL ROADBLOCK'S LAST AUTUMN, OFFICIAL UNIONIST MP HAROLD MC CUSKER, WHO HAD INTENDED TO GIVE DEFENSE TESTIMONY, QS ASSAULTED WITH FISTS AND FEET. IAN PAISLEY AND ERNEST BAIRD HAD ATTENDED HEARING AND ADDRESSED CORWD OUTSIDE. DEFIANT USC MEN SAID THEY WOULD NOT PAYE FINES AND WOULD BE ON PATROL SAME NIGHT.

3. USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY HAS HAD TWO INCIDENTS OF APPARENT INTIMIDATION. ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALLERS EVENING MAY 4 AND EARLY MORNING MAY 6, ALLEGING TO BE RESPECTIVELY "UDA" AND UNCLASSIFIED

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"UUUC," SAID IN FIRST INSTANCE THERE WAS BOMB IN CYMNASIUM AND IN OTHER INCIDENT DEMANDED BASE BE CLOSED TODAY OR "ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN." POLICE AND ARMY CONDUCTED SEARCH FOR BOMB WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS AND BASE IS OPERATING NORMALLY WITH FULL COMPLEMENT LOCAL EMPLOYEES TODAY1" THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO PUBLICITY OF INCIDENTS.

4. ONE SOLDIER INJURED IN BOMB-BLAST NEWRY AND TAXI-DRIVER FROM FALLS ROAD TAXI ASSOCIATION SHOT AND KILLED IN CATHOLIC WEST BELFAST MAY 5. THERE SEVERAL INCENDIARY BOMBS THROUGHOUT PROVINCE LAST NIGHT AND EARLY TODAY BUT NO RPT NO APPARENT PATTERN OR PERPETRATORS.SPICER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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